

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1916.

"We are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved."—H.M. The King
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE—Every fighting unit we can send to the front means one step nearer peace.

COMPULSION IN BRITAIN

The first reading of the Bill to provide compulsory military service for the people of Great Britain found favor with an overwhelming majority in the British House of Commons. It is altogether likely that it will pass the other stages and become law and that Britain, for the first time in her history, will be bound by the rules of conscription.

It is regrettable that such action should have been deemed necessary, as it cannot but detract from the world-wide belief that the loyalty of Britain's people would prove sufficient to guard her in any crisis. That this is still true with the great majority of the British people cannot be denied; but the adoption of conscription simply means that those patriotic, courageous and self-sacrificing Britons, who have volunteered their names to the number of six millions, have come to the point where they will no longer protect the cowards and shirkers who, while a voluntary system prevailed, were able to remain in comfort at home and allow their stout-hearted brothers to do their fighting for them.

The compulsory service measure will have the effect of bringing to Britain's banners a larger army than has so far been raised. It does not, however, relieve Canadians of their duty. Rather does it make it all the more imperative that our Canadian manhood should rally to the flag; we must now show the world that in the land of the Maple Leaf it is not necessary to resort to force to secure men to fight in the cause of righteousness and freedom.

It is noteworthy, too, that while conscription was under consideration in Britain the Canadian people, through the Prime Minister, Sir Robert L. Borden, offered, as a New Year's gift to Empire, to increase Canada's fighting forces from a quarter to a half million of men. There should be little difficulty in securing the required number. The Toronto Mail and Empire editorially discussing the question says:

"To raise an army of half a million is not asking too much from the valiant spirit of this country. Canada has the available population. Being a country of opportunity for the young man, the Dominion has a large ratio of eligible single men. The census of 1911 recorded about a million single men between the ages of 15 and 39. The boys who were only 15 and 16 at the time of the census are now grown into early manhood. On the other hand, men who were 38 and 39 when the census was taken are now over 41, the military maximum. But the number of single men between the ages of 35 and 39 four years ago was only 63,300, so that the deduction from the total for those passing 41 would necessarily be small. Of course a large proportion of those enumerated as single four years ago are now married. But the figures as then taken have peculiar interest at the present:

Age Group.	Total Males.	Single
15-19	351,244	346,439
20-24	385,855	318,921
25-29	370,494	203,011
30-34	310,339	108,317
35-39	257,875	63,324
	1,675,407	1,139,011

"From such an aggregate as the above there have to be deductions for unfitness, business disability, foreign nationality, and racial affiliations."

THE OPPOSITION CONVENTION

The effect of the brilliant enthusiasm which the announcement of the approaching convention of the provincial opposition party seems to have aroused in the Telegraph and Times will be somewhat moderated by the knowledge that a few years ago, when paid from a different hand, those newspapers managed to produce similar transports of ecstasy over the defeat of the gentleman whom they now hail as the new Moses appointed to lead the Grits out of the wilderness of opposition to the promised land of power.

Hon. Clifford W. Robinson, the leader of the opposition party, is a pleasant gentleman with an abundant sense of humor and there is no doubt that he himself is vastly amused at the efforts of the Canterbury street

wind instruments to blow hot where they once produced chilling blasts. Probably one of the items on the programme of the convention next week will be the reading of the Telegraph's opinions of the "peerless leader" as expressed in 1897-98, about the time he was engaged in producing a statement of the finances of the province which the Telegraph claimed was either foolish or deliberately deceptive.

As far as known Mr. Robinson has not changed with the years. He is still the gentle, jocund, ease-loving spirit as of yore. And in the company of heroes with which he is expected to surround himself will doubtless be found many familiar faces,—men who participated in the Central Railway raid, who manipulated two-price bridges and who voted sums of money to keep up a provincial department of agriculture with a few postage stamps, a lithograph of a horse and a picture of the revered Queen Victoria as an equipment.

In the halcyon days of '08, nothing was too evil for the Telegraph and Times to say of Mr. Robinson and his associates. Mr. Robinson has not changed; the Canterbury street newspapers' editorial opinions are manufactured by the same hands,—in short the whole farce is to be played by old friends though, for the occasion, they may adopt a new brand of make-up. The Telegraph and Times say the people of the province will await the report of the proceedings of the convention with much interest. That is true; they might also have added—"and with keen amusement."

RUSSIA'S GOOD WORK.

Day after day, during the past week, the cables have brought unvarying reports of Russian successes, particularly in the southeast. In no portion of the Empire has this news been more joyfully received than in Canada, for here there has been a very general belief that before the end of the war mighty accomplishments would go to the credit of the Czar's vast army.

Russia has been bearing her full share of the burdens of this war, despite the fact that there was more than a little resentment over her apparent failure to participate to any extent in the Balkan campaign. The Muscovite forces, however, have not been idle; while Britain and France have been sending men into Serbia to check the Teutonic-Bulgarian onslaught, Russia has been waging aggressive warfare in her own area.

When the German campaign against Serbia was incepted, Russia assumed the initiative on a very large scale along that portion of her lines nearest the Roumanian border. It was said at the time that the purpose of the effort was largely to impress Roumanians and if that be true it can hardly have failed of its effect. In Bukovina, the Austrian crown land, already the scene of fierce combats, Russia has pressed forward with a determination that must have proved surprising to the enemy before whose forces she had been retreating all through the summer months. Czernowitz, for days the centre of desperate encounters, has fallen into Russian hands and the Czar's troops are gradually consolidating the advantages gained.

But the full effect of the Russian successes is likely to be manifested in other ways than by mere territorial gains. Beyond a doubt it will relieve the pressure in Serbia, for the Central Powers must dispatch men to cope with the new danger and the Serbian field is the most probable to feel the effect of that movement. If the Russian campaign is completely successful it cannot but bring Roumania to the standard. With Roumania in line it is not unlikely that Bulgaria could be disposed of in quick time and would probably be forced to sue for independent peace. There would then be nothing left for isolated Turkey but to seek what shelter she could get from the bursting storm; then would come a speedy end to the Eastern campaign and the Allies' growing armies could bring greater weight to bear in the West where, after all, the really decisive victories must be won.

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

In defending the Liberal members of the Board of Trade the Times takes to remark "The Board of Trade will not be brow-beaten." The statement is hardly called for; there has been no attempt on the part of The Standard to brow-beat anyone. But The Standard maintains, despite the Times' disclaimer, that the St. John Board of Trade, as at present constituted, is a partisan body and because of the continued efforts of some of its members to avail themselves of every opportunity to indulge in petty criticism of Hon. Mr. Hagen and the Government, is of less value to the community than would be the case if it followed a more moderate course.

The Telegraph and Times cannot succeed in their attempt to claim that political considerations have not entered into the Board's activities. As a matter of fact The Standard's statement is absolutely correct and, if worth while or necessary, it would probably be possible to prove that the Board's course has not met with anything like the unanimous approval of its members.

The majority of independent men in St. John will agree with this newspaper in the contention that St. John's interests are as safe in the hands of Mr. Hagen as they would be if confided to President Likely, Secretary Armstrong or any of the other pronounced Liberals who at present hold the reins in what was once a useful commercial organization but whose glory is very rapidly departing.

While recognizing the importance of the position to which he has been called in the Valley Railway Company, there will be general rejoicing that Mr. F. W. Sumner has decided to return to his post as Agent-General for the Province of New Brunswick in London. Mr. Sumner is a thorough business man and can do sterling service for this province. That he accepted the London position without remuneration is a distinct tribute to his interest in New Brunswick's welfare.

It is the bounden duty of every man in St. John to attend church tomorrow and by his participation in the services in honor of the men who have answered the Empire's call, show his appreciation of the sacrifice they have made. Special programmes have been prepared in most of the churches and the occasion is expected to be inspiring.

The Russians continue to make advances against the enemy. Apparently that German story about the Bear's readiness to quit was no more credible than many other German productions.

This is the sort of weather that makes many men willing to "Keep the Home Fires Burning," and especially if the landlord pays for the coal.

Ulster has asked to be included in the compulsory military service enforcement. That should cause some thought in the rest of Ireland.

HARKINS PLAYERS CLOSE THEIR ENGAGEMENT TODAY

Harkins Players present the comedy "Mamzelle" at the matinee today. This is the comedy with the musical numbers and that wonderful dance—a good play for the ladies and children.

Tonight the engagement closes with a production of "Kick In." A large audience saw this play last night and thoroughly enjoyed it. It is about the best play seen on the Opera House stage for a long time. Don't miss it tonight—it may never come again.

How Canadians Earn Holidays

(Canadian Gazette, Dec. 2)
The Canadians at the front have been finding relaxation in these somewhat dull days. They recently carried out a spirited attack on their own and gave the Germans opposite them reason to increase their respect for Canadian daring and intensity. A little group of Canadians who returned from London to Flanders on Monday had an amusing story to tell of the way in which they earned their leave. Their commanding officer promised a nine days' holiday to the men who brought in a dozen German prisoners. There were plenty of volunteers and a spirited attack was carried out on the very next evening. Directly the Canadians appeared before the sparsely-held front trench opposite, up went the hands of its German occupants, all eager to be received as "Kamerads." They were brought in triumph to the Canadian lines. Alas! there proved to be eleven only, just one short of the number necessary to win the coveted leave. Nothing for it but another attack, and back the Canadians went. Other Germans had reoccupied the trench. They were surprised, again all hands went up, and again the cry was "Kamerad." "How many of you have?" asked the Canadian officer, revolver in hand. "Nine," was the answer. "Well, we only want one. Throw him out and we'll take him back." He was thrown out; but no sooner did the Canadians turn than the eight remaining Germans prepared to fire on them. The officer was

Little Benny's Note Book

Us fellows was playing football out in the street with Puds Simkins football this afternoon. Puds Simkins not being there on account of being home practicing on the piano, which he has to do a hour every day, and after a while Sid Hunt kicked the football so hard that something happened to it and all the air leaked out.

G, now wat will we do, Puds Simkins is the only one not how to blow it up, and has home practicing, sed Sam Krawas.

I'll take it around to his house and get him to blow it up, I sed.

Wich I did, Skinny Martha and Ed Wernleke coming with me, and as soon as we got outside of Puds's parlor we heard him practicing and I knocked on the window and Puds came and opened it, and I sed, Hay, Puds, blow this up, will you, Sid Hunt kicked all the air out.

It takes 5 minits to blow that up, and I aint aloud to stop practicing dont any of you fellows no how to play the piano so you can practice for me while im blowing it up, and then my mothir will think its still me practicing, sed Puds.

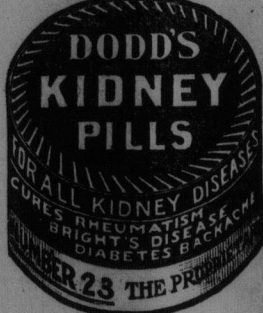
Wich none of us noo how, and Puds sed, Aw, its a slinsh, you come in, Benny, and ill show you how.

And he opened the frunt door and I went in the parlor, Skinny Martin and Ed Wernleke waiting outside, andiest then Mrs. Simkins called down from upstairs, Charles, we arent you practicing.

I am, sed Puds. Wich he started to saying, See, see all im doing, Im jest playing these 3 keys and then these 3, its a slinsh, you go ahead and do it will I blow the football up.

And he startid to blow it up, and I startid to try to practice for him, only I kepp awn hitting the rong 3 keys all the time, sowingid fearse till Puds took a hunk of a pencil out of his pocket and put little numbers on the 6 keys I was supposid to hit, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and affir that it sowedid pritty good, and I kepp awn hitting 1, 2, 3 and then 4, 5, 6, till Puds had it all blowed up, and by that time it was time for him to stop practicing, and he went out with us and got in the same.

ready for them. Taking a bomb from one of his men, he threw it in the midst of the eight. "Divide that amongst the rest of you," he shouted; and so accurate was his aim that there was no more to fear from that quarter. Hence the leave which was enjoyed in the keen dry weather of London last week and ended on Monday.



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Thanks Frae Glasgow

We desire to thank the thousands of Canadians, who use the brand of Scotch which bears our name, for their loyal support and patronage during 1915.

It is gratifying to us that, notwithstanding general conditions, our Canadian trade has suffered the least.

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INTERESTING For Boys

More Valuable

There are many trades and professions described in six letters, such as "Barber" or any? If so make a careful list of two longest and best written lists, I watch, and some other suitable, that in this contest, no name of trade six letters, and only one side of the state at the end of the list, how many get. This contest is open to all boys of age, and each entry must have the competition will close January 12th, dressed to

Whose decision must be considered a

STANDARD CO. For Boys and

Full Name.....

Address.....

Age Last Birth.....

A Contest With N

Having noticed that a number of over ten years of age, refrain from thinking perhaps that they have little older, I have decided to let you have each to be judged under their own a

Make out the most number of words, EXCITEMENT, and I shall award two longest lists, as follows: One for YEARS OF AGE, and the other for the NOT OVER FIFTEEN years of age.

Each list must be accompanied by a filled in, and having the number of v list.

All attempts must reach this office dressed to

whose decision must be considered a

FUNERALS.

The funeral of Miss Jane Drake took place yesterday afternoon from her late residence, 95 Princess street. Rev. Gordon Dickie conducted services; burial was in Fernhill.

Yesterday morning the funeral of Michael J. McKenna took place from his late residence, 197 Chesley street, to St. Peter's church, where Requiem